

and said: I do not feel safe in school. I do not feel safe.

So they left their schools and honored those who died in Florida just a few weeks ago. They begged for this Nation and this Congress to get out of its stupor and to begin to pass real gun safety legislation.

Raise the age. Ban the bump stocks. Have universal background checks. The children's voices are crying.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, where in the world does General Sessions get in his mind that he can fire FBI Directors, Assistant Directors? And where in the world does the President get in his mind that he can fire the Secretary of State in such a disgraceful manner?

□ 1800

PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Public Schools Week.

A quality public education is among the most important gifts we can provide to our children.

As a product of a terrific public school, where my son also attended and graduated from 30 years later, I understand the challenges our local schools, administrators, and teachers are facing in public schools.

Ninety percent of American children attend public school, making the local school district in most communities the largest and most significant employer.

I had and will continue to be a strong advocate for public schools throughout our communities and throughout our Nation.

Throughout my time in office, I have called for responsible increases in education and resources to our public schools, that are increasingly having to take on unfunded mandates and face many of the societal challenges that are now brought into the school districts.

As a former member of the New York State Assembly Education Committee, I fought against a very unfair school aid formula that indirectly and unfairly impacted our upstate public schools.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the public schools and thanking those teachers, administrators, and custodians who provide guidance and provide leadership and a lifetime of memories to our students.

Communities are stronger and schools are better when we work together to support public education.

NATIONAL SCHOOL WALKOUT

(Mr. PANETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, today, high school students got up from their desks and walked out of their classes to take a stand against gun violence and for school safety. From the east coast of Florida to the central coast of California, students left their classrooms for 17 minutes to remember the 17 lives lost at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and to demand that Congress take action on gun violence.

Now, today, Mr. Speaker, I commend you. We acted together to pass the STOP School Violence Act for school safety and security, but with all due respect, Mr. Speaker, that is not enough, and it is time we come together to pass commonsense reforms that have broad support across our Nation, from banning bump stocks to repealing the Dickey amendment, to fixing our system of background checks.

We all appreciate the emotion and passion by the high school students all across our country, but we realize, as they do, that thoughts and prayers only go so far. So now it is up to Congress to govern not just by crisis, but actually by leadership to make our schools, our communities, and our country safer.

THE LIBERAL MEDIA

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, the American people hate the # inhuman liberal media more and more every day. The last example? A Washington Post op-ed, titled, "I Would Have Aborted a Fetus With Down Syndrome." My entire hometown of Sugar Land, Texas, was disgusted by those nine words.

I sent the hurtful article to Ammie, Massey, and Kristin, three friends with gorgeous Down kids. Ammie was stunned, because The Post basically said:

If you knew your child would have cancer, cerebral palsy, diabetes, be deaf, blind, mute, or autistic, they should be aborted.

Ammie's Sadie has Down. Ammie says about her daughter:

Even on my hardest days, her smile can take all the difficulties away from my day. I will forget them. Through my tears, I typed this note.

Mr. Speaker, none of us is perfect and none of us should be aborted because we are not perfect.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLESTON HARTFIELD

(Mr. KIHUEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Charleston Hartfield.

Charleston was a military veteran who served for 16 years and was de-

ployed to Iraq. He had received a Presidential Citation for extraordinary heroism in Iraq, along with numerous other individual commendations and achievement medals.

After the military, Charleston began his career with the Las Vegas Police Department, where he had worked for 11 years while also being an active member of the National Guard.

Along with protecting our Nation, he also enjoyed coaching youth football. Although he had no experience in football, he bought and studied books about coaching.

Charleston was a husband and a father to a son and a daughter.

He attended the Route 91 music festival on October 1 in Las Vegas with his wife, who was his high school sweetheart.

Charleston died trying to save the lives of concertgoers. As gunfire erupted, he immediately jumped in to usher people to safety.

He was loved by many and touched many lives.

As a published memoir author, Charleston's story will always be remembered. He was a selfless man who dedicated his life to protecting the community and country he loved.

We also grieve the loss of Charleston's mother, who died 2 days after his funeral from what many people said was a broken heart.

I would like to extend my condolences to Charleston Hartfield's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas and the State of Nevada and the entire country grieve with you.

PALMETTO WOMEN'S CENTER

(Mr. NORMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a pro-life pregnancy center in my own district, the Palmetto Women's Center.

The Palmetto Women's Center is focused on uniting hope, health, and healing to women as they bring a child into their family. The center provides women with pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, Biblical counseling, education from nurses, connections within the community for access to resources, and much, much more. For example, the center partners with the Rock Hill Salvation Army to ensure that soon-to-be mothers can have access to maternity clothing and baby supplies.

The Palmetto Women's Center will be able to reach more women in my district as they begin operating in their new mobile unit. This will allow the staff of the center to travel throughout the district and provide women with the center's free services.

Palmetto Women's Center is working to lower the number of abortions in South Carolina and supporting women as they choose life for their children. I